

February 12, 2025

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association – Steve Hitchcock, Govt. Affairs

RE: SB 156

Chairwoman Warren and Committee –

The Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association strongly urges the passage of SB 156. Clarifying and strengthening the sanctions on misuse of laser pointer devices in a manner which endangers air operations is an important step in ensuring the safety of aviation in Kansas.

Our members comprise a key element of agricultural support in Kansas as they treat hundreds of thousands of acres involved in producing food, fiber, and fuel in our state. In applying herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and fertilizers, our professional pilots operate at low altitudes in environments that contain numerous hazards. Any distraction or interference with the operation of their aircraft under these circumstances is a serious and potentially disastrous act. We applaud the legislature for addressing this concern and look forward to SB 156 becoming a positive step in favor of air safety.

Thank you for your work in this area.

